

**SPECIAL MEETING  
BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN  
(PUBLIC PARTICIPATION)**

**March 20, 2007**

**7:00 PM**

Mayor Guinta called the meeting to order.

Mayor Guinta called for the Pledge of Allegiance, which was led by Alderman Smith.

A moment of silent prayer was observed.

Alderman Forest requested that retired Police Chief Jerry Gulliver from Hooksett, who had passed away be remembered.

Alderman long requested that School Committee Member Carol Scott also be remembered.

The Clerk called the roll. Thirteen Aldermen were present.

Present: Aldermen Roy, Gatsas, Long, Duval, Osborne, Pinard, O’Neil, Lopez, Shea, DeVries, Garrity, Smith, Forest.

Absent: Alderman Thibault.

Mayor Guinta advised that the purpose of the special meeting is to give residents of Manchester the opportunity to address the Board on items of concern affecting the community; that each person will be given only one opportunity to speak; that comments shall be limited to three minutes to allow all participants the opportunity to speak and any comments must be directed to the Chair.

Mayor Guinta requested that any resident wishing to speak come forward to the nearest microphone, clearly state their name and address when recognized, and give their comments.

Robert Tarr, 318 Spruce Street, Manchester, NH (Re: Maple Street CIP Recommendation) stated:

I come to you today with a recommendation from a few people from Ward Five and Ward Four. As I had spoke in the ward by ward meeting, Ward Five, we had brought this

recommendation up and I would like to bring it to the Full Board tonight for recommendation. We are asking for a replacement of chain link fences surrounding the Hunts Pool and adjoining skate park area. We are proposing a different type of fencing that we feel is cost effective, would reduce maintenance costs, and is aesthetically pleasing. As we all know, vandalism in this area has cost the City large amounts of money to repair the fence over time, each time it is cut and torn open. That money could be better spent in other areas, as well as extra man hours for our City Departments. With this type of fencing, vandalism would be reduced, thus providing cost savings for many years to come. We have included in the reference materials a product description, material data sheet, a wind loading data sheet and two conceptual drawings for review. We've also included information from two companies who are representatives of this type of fencing, who install this type of fencing, as well as the quotes they've provided to me for your review. It's our hope and our understanding that you will submit this, hopefully, to the CIP Committee for review for 2008 CIP funding. And again, this is just for review and we're hoping that we can have this looked into and hopefully implementation taken care of next year when CIP comes around. Thank you.

Billy Dodd, Ward Seven, (Re: City-wide) stated:

First and foremost, I'm sure everybody's aware of the fire over on Hosley Street and the comment that the person made in there that lives on the street about his forgotten street. It doesn't get plowed. Your Honor, you've got some pictures that were taken about three or four years ago. Franklin Street and your parking spot, okay? From the Valentine's Day storm not a whole lot changed. It seems like this is the forgotten street. It's been forgotten a lot of times. Go up Spruce Street, Auburn Street. It seems to me like maybe you need to have your emergency parking out two nights in a row to get streets clean and wide enough to do something, because they're not getting plowed on the even/odd nights. You want to ticket cars and all kinds of stuff, but it seems like there might be a managerial problem with getting the roads plowed. I know the workers work long, hard hours, and maybe something needs to be done on management side. Parking patrol. Seems like they want to do Mechanic Street over here and make it one way, like Stark. Again, snow removal. Look at Stark Street where the angled parking is. When there's snow on the ground for whatever time it's going to stay there, you lose two or three spots at each end of the angled parking, the alley and down on Canal. So you're going to lose some of your parking spots unless you clean up the snow. Have we used that great big snow melting machine once this year? I remember when Elm Street used to be plowed all the time. Here's a picture from the 1993 Union Leader about a big blizzard that was coming in. On the front page they show from 1888, these guys got out there with shovels and did their job. Remember when Elm Street used to get cleaned up after every storm? It doesn't happen anymore. But, is the reason for making Mechanic Street one way to really get more parking for people downtown, or is it to give you, as the paper says, 27 spots? I think it's probably 27 spots to write another ten dollar ticket. That's where the real money is, not in the quarters or fifty cents. Development in the City. Seems like everything wants to go condos and offices. When are you going to overbuild those two

items? When are you going to build something that makes widgets, okay? You don't have any industrial space. You're losing it. You keep turning industrial space over to commercial space, or housing. So your people that are going to give your pitch and your plan on how you're going to market Manchester, I wonder if they have anything in there on industrial? And here's another one. Here's a picture from the Fire Chief's Association when they had their corned beef and cabbage. I know how the City went vigorously after some nightclubs. I wonder what would happen if, from the article here, beer after beer that was served, God forbid, somebody had an accident out of there and killed somebody. Would the City vigorously go after not having a liquor permit issued for that again? Or your beloved Civic Center. With all the alcohol that's served over there, if you had a couple accidents and fatalities out of that place, would you vigorously go after the Verizon Center and take their liquor license? I don't think so. You need to look at your priorities and how you handle things. Thank you.

Glenn Ouellette, 112 Auburn Street, Manchester, NH (Re: Ordinance enforcement) stated: Is it 27 parking spaces that you're looking at or is it the \$20,000 that is going to be lining the General Fund? Which is more important: a traffic jam that you're going to have to un-create that you're creating now by making Mechanic a one-way street, which is going to cost us more than \$20,000 to fix, or the \$20,000 that you see as a fast fix right now? I'm amazed. To the Board of Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Manchester. I'm here tonight to talk about crime and ordinance code violations, yes, again. Crime and ordinance code violations in the City of Manchester and how will it be stopped? It will not be stopped without your will, and I'm determined now that most of you don't have that will, or I guess the elections aren't close enough to give you that will. What is the real root causes of crime and violence within our City and how does the enforcement or non-enforcement of the laws and ordinances within Manchester affect the type of crime, and how much of it occurs in and around our many community neighborhoods? Why have we, the biggest city in New Hampshire, and the biggest city north of Boston, been unable to find any permanent answers for the growing pains that are causing a curse on Manchester when it comes to crime? The City's unwillingness to truly deal with the long term versus patchwork issues of enforcement, alone reveals some of the true rooted causes of ultimate patchwork in the past several years and not any true long-standing solutions for solving the ever-infringing increases of our City's quality of life issues. There are twenty-four community neighborhoods which you people have recognized throughout the winter. Is our City at risk of crime? Well the answer is yes but then any city is at risk of crime. But how much crime? And how much could be prevented? So, yes or no, you be the judge. Have you or someone you know in your community neighborhood been a victim of crime? The odds are that you or someone close to you has been victimized at least once, and possibly several times, in the last two to four years. Almost every week, and soon every day that summer is approaching us, we'll hear the terrible crimes committed against innocent people within Manchester. In some neighborhoods, in neighborhood quarters of our City, walking the streets in broad daylight can be every bit as frightening and dangerous as dark alleys at midnight. And that is

a shame. Instead it's the non-political willingness that you, our elected officials, haven't yet found within your hearts to deal with the long lasting and true solutions of the growing roots caused by crimes within our great community. It's a lack of enforcing City codes and ordinances, or the lack of issuing all the necessary citations as the local laws allow you to provide anywhere within the city limits of Manchester, that are some of the root causes that keep the invitation open to those committing crimes, of an unsafe haven from the horrendous criminal acts of constant violence and too often repeated weekly that we in our community keep witnessing. And I'm out of time so I'm going to end with this statement. I can grab my ten fingers and name ten crimes that could have been prevented in this City, but it wasn't because the City refuses to enforce ordinances. A month ago I came here and handed over a petition to you, the Mayor and Aldermen. No one has called me or any of the nearly forty people who signed it. Today we watch the news and we see that on TV Mr. Burlingette went to court. It would have been nice if you'd notified someone on that committee. Why do we come here to speak to you and complain if all you hear is deaf ear? What happened to the respect we used to have in this City? We used to come here and we used to be told, either by our Aldermen or the Mayor of this City, what could be done about this problem, or what couldn't be done. At least we got a phone call or a letter. We need to get back in touch with the public.

Eric Sawyer, 40 Wilmot Street, Manchester, NH (Re: Public Safety) stated:

The handout I gave the City Clerk is going to be a lot more informative than I'm going to be. But I thought I needed to say something because the budget season is upon us. In the past this Board has taken the City Departments and squeezed a fixed percentage off the top. And when you do that to the Public Safety departments, you insist that they man the same number of apparatus and have the same number of police patrols. You're always squeezing the equipment and the training, and people pay attention to that, especially people who have less than honest intent. Anybody who cares to look can see that Manchester Police Department, compared to other police departments, certainly has a lack of equipment, you might say. And in that regard it's important to remember that even a perceived weakness is nearly as dangerous as a real weakness. That's a fundamental tenet of security. And I don't want to go ahead and list all of the items that I can see because it would defeat my purpose in standing here talking to you. Some stuff that's very obvious to anybody who cares to look, and I'm not giving anything away because anybody who would care to do anything is going to know about it anyway. The Manchester Police Department doesn't have dashboard cameras. That's a fundamental officer safety thing. And it also could be augmented with all kinds of computer software for facial recognition. It would give a heads up for a dangerous individual or wanted felon. Both the Police Department and the Fire Department lack adequate training facilities. Nobody's even thought of going to the Federal government for a grant from Homeland Security. There's plenty of places in Manchester that are existing buildings that the City owns, and some of it's other locations that the City owns. It just boggles me. The one station that I would think would be more secure is the Police Station. Of all the City buildings, it's the one that's most susceptible for a car bomb, with its

overhanging glass first floor. That would fall like a house of cards in a tornado, even for a small car bomb. The Police Department's communications – telephones, radios, computers – I would venture to bet it's very susceptible to EMP, electromagnetic pulse. Somebody, for less than a thousand dollars could go on the internet and learn how to get the components and build it, and it could wipe out the entire communications of the Police Department. Very simple. And you don't even have to be a very smart engineer. I mean, just an average physics major or an average electrical engineer could do it. You passed a noise ordinance. You spent a lot of time with the noise ordinance to make sure it could withstand legal scrutiny. So we insisted that you measure noise via the ANSI standards and you used proper kinds of noise meters. Nobody's bought them. The ordinance won't stand legal scrutiny if you don't do it that way. The Police Department, they lack night tunnel vision equipment. That's basic equipment. A small police department that has three officers has that. It just keeps going on and on. It's a big list. Lack of equipment sends silent messages that, you know, I'm vulnerable. Come on and do it. Like I said, in the previous budget cycles, when our Chief stood up and asked for some of this stuff, he was basically told he was a dreamer. That's really bad. So, I hope that you find a way to find out what they don't have, as well as what they need. And start looking at ways to fund it.

Katherine Gatsas, 568 Island Pond Road, Manchester, NH (Re: crime) stated: Mayor Guinta, I tried to speak to the Public Safety Committee this evening, and I object to the “shut up” and “shut out” practices of Chairman Ed Osborne. Mr. Osborne, you denied me my First Amendment right earlier today. You allowed two male attorneys to speak for a solid forty-five minutes. You, Mr. Osborne, practice selectivity. Could it be gender selectivity or is it the truth you deny? I tried to speak. This gentleman ahead of me. I tried to speak to the Committee about a needs assessment earlier tonight and I was shut out by Mr. Osborne. Tonight I have something more important to speak about: saving a girl's life. I rise before this Committee as a former member of the Manchester School Board to file a complaint against Assistant Superintendent Frank Bass. In this envelope is a name and a phone number of a Manchester resident, Mr. Guinta. A mother of a high school student. This student is a victim of stalking and harassment during school hours. The girl fears for her personal safety. Recently assaulted and injured during school. Frank Bass ignores the mother's complaint and then he denied the mother protection for her daughter. Frank Bass's deliberate indifference to protecting her daughter forced this woman to publicly beg, to beg in a local newspaper, begging this community to provide a safe school environment for her daughter because Frank Bass would not. Frank Bass is obligated by his duty to ensure the safety of all students and certainly those students in danger. Stalking is a crime. The United States Justice Department says every stalking case is potentially lethal. The sooner the police identify stalking, the greater the chance of protecting the victim from physical harm. The Manchester Education Association complains about unsafe schools. There was a large article published in the Union Leader on December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2006. The article reads, “Manchester Teachers Union yesterday charged the School District has been lax in enforcing rules to prevent school bullying and to keep classrooms safe.” Let's educate our students

about the stalking law and the consequences of breaking the law. Mayor Guinta, please, I have the name and phone number of this woman in this envelope. She has called your office and has not received a return phone call. Would you please help her keep her daughter safe? Please call the name and number in this envelope? Would the Clerk please come and get the envelope? Thank you very much. I appreciate it.

Skip Ashooh stated: I'm here representing the Selection Committee for the Economic Development candidate that will be before you tonight. And I'd just like to say that this committee, one which I was very pleased to serve on, represented some of the best and brightest in this community, both on the residential side and the business side, many of whom have tremendous expertise in selecting candidates. I've gone through this process before. And I think it's significant to recognize that we have the opportunity to select someone who can be a leader, a visionary, someone who can command staff and carry forward the momentum that we have in this City. A failure to do that could represent a loss of momentum. We've had some tremendous things going on here. I know there's been some debate about possibly consolidating these things because Bob MacKenzie did a very good job of being an overseer during the vacancy. But I think you also need to recognize the fact that there's a significant difference between the regulatory side of planning and the entrepreneurial side of economic development in this City. They're two completely separate functions and they require individuals from separate fields to do that. The committee I sat on I think went through a very long and diligent process, aided by City staff to screen the twenty some-odd candidates we had, to get down to a final three. And then we engaged in several long hours of vigorous debate over who had the best skills for this position. We believe we have that candidate. We put him before the Mayor. The Mayor has made his selection. I'd like to encourage you to consider carefully the nomination by the Mayor of Jamin Cara and elect him as our next Economic Development officer. Thank you very much.

Karen Carter (Re: Safety) stated: I'm going to make this very short and sweet. I'm going to leave it up to the Chief of Police to address the safety issues. It would be nice if he could run his own department and have a complement of officers. I don't understand...I was in the hospital for forty-four days. I haven't seen much done for safety here. I've been a victim seventeen times in six months, and it's not because of where I live. Thank you.

There being no one else present wishing to speak, on motion of Alderman Pinard, duly seconded by Alderman Smith, it was voted to take all comments under advisement and further to receive and file any written documentation presented.

Mayor Guinta stated before we adjourn this portion of the meeting, I would like to call up Alderman Gatsas for a Proclamation, and there are several members from the Greek-American community in our audience, if you could all please come forward as well.

Mayor Guinta stated as you all know we will be celebrating Greek Independence Day in the City for the remainder of the week and I do have to apologize that Stan Spirou's not here. I understand he's doing another St. Patrick's Day gig somewhere in the State, but he sends his condolences. I did want to thank you all for coming here and being part of what we feel is an important acknowledgement in the City, the heritage of our City and the importance of the Greek community, so I do have a Proclamation that I'd like to read and then I'd like the Commissioner to say a few words afterwards as well.

"Whereas Greece is the birthplace of democracy and the Greek culture has been the bastion of freedom for centuries; and whereas the 1829 revolution that brought independence to Greece was an affirmation of their desire for freedom and self determination; and whereas Greece and the United States continue to be at the forefront of freedom and democracy world-wide because of these shared ideals, the two countries have forged a close bond; and whereas the Greek community has had a profound impact on Manchester's economic, social, religious and recreational communities for more than a century; and whereas the City of Manchester owes its citizens of Greek lineage – past, present, and future – a great deal of gratitude, now therefore I, Frank Guinta, the Mayor of the City of Manchester, do hereby proclaim March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2007 as Greek independence day in the City. I encourage all residents of the City to understand the importance the country of Greece has had on many of the traditions in our Country, and in our City that we hold so valuable today. Thank you very much.

Alderman Gatsas stated thank you, Mr. Mayor, thank you Board of Aldermen, and thank you people in attendance. Obviously this is a big day in the history of the Greek community and we have a great tradition here in Manchester and we've been a terrific part of the community in Manchester as well. This is 1829 when we first obtained freedom from the Ottoman Empire after 400 years of rule, so we gave a great tradition to look up to, and as I said, our forefathers all fought extremely hard on our behalf for us to achieve this freedom and independence. And I want to thank you for the time tonight. I know you've got a heavy schedule, so just make sure the Greek flag is flying tomorrow.

Mayor Guinta stated we do have a Greek flag that we're going to present to the City Clerk's office which we'll make sure is flown in the City through Monday of next week. So thank you all, congratulations, and if the City can continue to honor our Greek friends this week, we would certainly appreciate it. Thank you very much.

This being a special meeting of the Board, no further business was presented and on motion of Alderman Pinard, duly seconded by Alderman Roy, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

City Clerk